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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,111	01/31/2001	Hiroshi Nomura	P20211	1167

7055 7590 03/18/2002

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

SMITH, ARTHUR A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/774,111	Applicant(s) NOMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Arthur A Smith	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nomura (USPN 5136315).

Nomura discloses a lens barrier opening/closing device of a movable lens barrel driven to move between an accommodation position and a photographing position, col. 1 lines 10-21. Nomura discloses that the device comprises at least one barrier blade, ref. 23 and 25, which are driven to open and close a photographic aperture formed at the front end wall of the movable lens barrel when the movable lens barrel is in the photographing position and the accommodation position, col. 1 line 62 – col. 2 line 2. Nomura also discloses a barrier drive ring, ref. 21, driven to rotate about an optical axis to drive the barrier blade, col. 4 lines 52-57. Nomura further discloses a first biasing device, ref. 40, which biases the barrier drive ring in a predetermined rotational

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direction. Nomura also discloses a rotational barrel, ref. 12, which at least rotates about the optical axis when the movable lens barrel moves between the accommodation position and the photographing position. Nomura discloses a rotational-force receiving surface, ref. 57, formed on the barrier drive ring, the rotational-force receiving surface extending parallel to the optical axis. Nomura also discloses a rotational-force transmission surface, ref. 41, formed on the rotation barrel, the rotational-force transmission surface extending parallel to the optical axis. Nomura further discloses wherein the rotational-force receiving surface and the rotational-force transmission surface are engaged with each other to rotate the barrier drive ring together with the rotational barrel about the optical axis in a direction against a biasing force of the first biasing device when the movable lens barrel moves between the photographing position and the accommodation position, col. 4 lines 3-18. Nomura discloses that the barrier drive ring comprises a drive lever, ref. 57, which extends substantially parallel to the optical axis toward the rotational barrel, and the drive lever includes the rotational-force receiving surface thereon, col. 3 lines 29-32.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Omiya (USPN 6264380).

Omiya discloses a lens barrier opening/closing device of a movable lens barrel driven to move between an accommodation position and a photographing position, col. 2 lines 33-46. Omiya discloses that the device comprises at least one barrier blade, ref. 22, which are driven to open and close a photographic aperture formed at the front end wall of the movable lens barrel when the movable lens barrel is in the photographing

position and the accommodation position, col. 5 lines 43-54. Omiya also discloses a barrier drive ring, ref. 24, driven to rotate about an optical axis to drive the barrier blade, col. 6 lines 1-4. Omiya further discloses a first biasing device, ref. 25, which biases the barrier drive ring in a predetermined rotational direction, col. 6 lines 5-21. Omiya also discloses a rotational barrel, ref. 6, which at least rotates about the optical axis when the movable lens barrel moves between the accommodation position and the photographing position, col. 4 lines 59-63. Omiya discloses a rotational-force receiving surface, ref. 24d, formed on the barrier drive ring, the rotational-force receiving surface extending parallel to the optical axis. Omiya also discloses a rotational-force transmission surface formed on the rotation barrel, the rotational-force transmission surface extending parallel to the optical axis, col. 5 lines 31-42. Omiya further discloses wherein the rotational-force receiving surface and the rotational-force transmission surface are engaged with each other to rotate the barrier drive ring together with the rotational barrel about the optical axis in a direction against a biasing force of the first biasing device when the movable lens barrel moves between the photographing position and the accommodation position, col. 6 lines 5-21. Omiya discloses that the barrier drive ring comprises a drive lever, ref. 24d, which extends substantially parallel to the optical axis toward the rotational barrel, and the drive lever includes the rotational-force receiving surface thereon.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur A Smith whose telephone number is (703) 605 1228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays during the same hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on (703) 308 2847.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

AAS
March 8, 2002


RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800